



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1800

June 17, 2003

Dear Dairy Industry:

On May 16, 2003 the Governor signed into law a bill that establishes a new program, the Livestock Nutrient Management Program, within the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). This program was established to provide guidance to the livestock industry regarding their responsibilities, under state and federal law, to protect water quality while maintaining a healthy business climate for farming. The intent of the legislation is for a single Livestock Nutrient Management Program to be fully implemented by 2006. To help facilitate the development of a single program, the current Dairy Nutrient Management program, authorized under Chapter 90.64 RCW, will transfer from the Department of Ecology to WSDA effective July 1, 2003. You can access the legislation implementing this transfer (ESSB 5889) on our WSDA Web site at <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Livestock-Nutrient/livestocknutrient.htm> or you can call 360/902-1888 to have the document mailed or faxed to you.

Kathy Kravit-Smith, the Assistant Director for the Food Safety, Animal Health and Consumer Services Division, will be providing the leadership to develop the new program at WSDA. Over the next few months she will be hiring a program manager and staff for the program and will be working with industry representatives on the implementation of the new legislation. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Kravit-Smith at 360/902-1888.

To assist in the implementation, the legislature provided for the appointment of a Program Development and Oversight Committee. The committee will consist of 15 members, of which the Governor will appoint 10 members. Members will serve on the committee from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2006. I have been assisting the Governor in providing candidates for these appointments.

The committee will: (1) review federal regulations and develop a program that meets the requirements and time frames contained in the federal rules; (2) review and comment on livestock nutrient management grant proposals; (3) develop draft legislation that complies with minimum requirements under federal law and chapter 90.48 RCW; (4) provide a report to the legislature by December 1, 2003 that includes the results of the committee's work.

This federal program is necessary and critical to the future of the livestock industry in the state of Washington. The citizens are counting on us to maintain a productive business climate and at the same time, protect our treasured natural resources. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valoria Loveland".

Valoria Loveland  
Director

